

BEJOY PANCHALEE

PART II.

BY
MUTUA JHULON SINGH

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BEJOY PANCHALEE OR HISTORY OF MANIPUR

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MUTUA JHULON SINGH

Translated by Sanasam Gourhari Singh, B A.
Excepting the portion of His Highness
Maharajah Sir Churachand Singh
K C. S I.. C. B, E.
the latter being
translatated by
Haobam
Ebotombi
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BEJOY PANCHALEE.

PART II.



The rebellion of Maharaja Chourajit Singh against Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh in the district of Cachar.

Through the machination of Keifa Sana Maharaja Chourajit hatched a rebellion in Cachar against Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh when necessary arrangements were being made for the departure of Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh from Cachar to Manipur. Before the battle began in right earnest Nara Singh and Gambhir Singh advised Keifa Sana to withdraw his charge in anticipation of the fatal issue that would be forthcoming from the operation. But on Keifa's behaving otherwise he was killed with a spear hurled down from the elephant

of Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh when he rushed forward sword in hand. From the back of the elephant Gambhir Singh asked Chourajit Maharaja as to how he would be treated, Chourajit Maharaja replied "As for myself I have nothing to say. The plots and insurrections of the rebellion went under the figures of Keifa Sana." Gambhir Singh courted the self-surrender of Chourajit Maharaja and a Durbar was held. In the Durbar Gambhir Singh requested Chourajit Maharaja to return to Manipur and resume the throne but Chourajit did not comply with the request saying that he was disqualified for kingship due to old age and it was better for him "to hushand out life's taper at the close" by following hard penance or by retiring from the wear and tear of life and dedicating his life to the service of God.

Preparation for an
expedition against
Burma.

After the tumult in
Cachar was over Nara
Singh and Gambhir

Singh returned to Manipur and they called a meeting. Nara Singh said to Gambhir Singh "It is hard to see how the Meitei elders fare

under the Burmese influence. The Burmese are thorns and as such it is my desire to see Manipur sound full notes for a new era by irradiating the thorns. Nothing need be apprehended in this connection for it is the intention of the British to maintain our position by helping us in men and ammunitions". In the meeting it was settled that Gambhir Singh was to conduct the war as a King, Nara Singh as a general and Sana Khongsangba, son of Daoji as a Jubaraja (heir apparent). By way of a kind response to the intimation of the particulars and resolutions of the meeting the British sent on deputation some men and ammunitions to Nara Singh and Gambhir Singh. On an auspicious day they started for the war. At Brishnupur Gambhir Singh with his white war-horse (Sanabi-white) and Nara Singh, his Kartic (war-horse) made troops for the engagement.

E*vent of the battle.* After a heavy firing of five days the Burmese were routed. After the flight of the Burmese Maharaja Khaba Bhadra Singh as agreed upon, called Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh and suggested that Gambhir Singh

would become king. Nara Singh the senapati (General) and Sana-Khongsangba the Jubaraj or heir apparent Not a single hand was seen in the negative. Accordingly Maharaj Khaba Lhadra Singh after making over the charge of kingship to Gambhir Singh led a retired life.

The son of Maharaj Khaba Bharat Singh
1. Nara Singh. 2 Debendra Singh. 3. Khounjao Sana and 4. Leimaram Taba.

Indirect result of the battle. At the battle of Khurailakpa Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh killed so many Burmese that the handle of the sword and their palms got so fastened with each other with the blood of the slaughtered as to be impracticable of loosening the grasp. Their hands were set free from the hands of the sword by steeping and washing their hands into the water of a cave. Thongjamlok (a cave in the water of which the swords were washed) still bears an eloquent testimony to the blood-thirsty vengeance and bravery of the two Meitei chiefs, Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh

During the reign of Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh prior to the regime of Khagemba

Maharaj troops were counted by 50 100, 1000. When the arms and elephants and ammunitions were introduced by the Mayang (Foreign king) in Manipur one thousand was called a 'Doli' (troop) deriving its name from 'Fouja' (a Hindi word). The leader or petrol of a troop was called Subedar and Jamander

I *mp*ortant note or
changes effected by
Gambhir Singh and
Nara Singh about
the composition of
military troops.

After amicable relations were established between British Government and Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh the petrol of the Meitei was known as General, Colonel, Lieptenant, Major, Subider, Jamandar and Habilidadar making these words intermixed (amalgamated) with foreign words. From 'Doli- "Tulhan Manjour" Tuinalha" Manjour etc. came into use later on. In Burma one 'fouja' numbering about 1000 is called a "Kongai".

Shree Gobinda stayed at Sylhet Rajbari during the chaotic, state of Manipur during the regime of Marjit Maharaja. Afterwards Shree Gobindajee was brought to Manipur and worshipped by Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh The place where

Shree Gobinda stayed at Sylhet in the period referred to is known as Gobindapur.

Chapter XIII.

R*ebellion of* Gambhir Singh (Chinglen Nong *the Burmese.* dren Khomba) Shreejut Gambhir Singh Maharaja mounted the throne of Manipur in 1825 A.D. The early part of his reign was troubled by the delivery of the news that a Burmese troop took station at Tumu in readiness to fall upon Manipur. On the spur of the moment Gambhir Singh sent 1000 strong under the leadership of his brave brother, general Nara Singh with intent to allay the tumult. Nara Singh kept the Burmese at bay at Tumu. The Burmese gradually lost ground and were routed by Nara Singh upto Khana Pat (lake) and crossing the Kabou channel and Ango hills and fording the Ningthi River and after annexing all the territories covered by his long expedition. Nara Singh returned to Manipur in triumph with his arms.

A *punitive expedition* Owing to his great displeasure incurred by the Mayany King Gobinda Chandra in connection with the latter's employing Khumbong

Apambi, mother of Gambhir Singh on business of running errand or compelling her to do menial service Gambhir Singh sent 100 strong and had Gobinda Chandra killed. The soldiers returned with a large number of captives in men women and children and with a large booty. In gratification of their services the soldiers were highly rewarded with a 'pari' of land and a sum of money for each man.

*Strange demise of
Gambhir Singh.*

Some time later Chandra Kirti was born.

A few years after the birth of Chandra Kirti when Gambhir Singh established himself as a powerful monarch on undisputed authority the sooth-sayers (wise pandits) fore-cast the death of the king saying "O, Maharaja, dire is the omen this year concerning the affairs and fate of the king and therefore we are to worship and propitiate God with a view to securing His good-will", Maharaja Gambhir Singh did not transgress the words of the prognostications of the pandits He acted everything promptly up to the dictates of the pandits The only alternative the Maharaja had recourse to was that he dug a long ditch in

wich he in order to avert the doomed-fate or by way of a remedial and evasive measure for the doomed-fate remained following hard penance for extending his longevity Further the pandits opined that if the noon of the ninth day of his hard penance in the ditch expired the course of the evil days would run out and accordingly the issue of their long deliberation was intimated to the king in this light. But starangely enough, as what is lotted cannot be blotted out, the king's days were numbered. For just at the very noon of the ninth day a little snake sprang out unawares and bit the king who breathed his last in consequence

Nara Singh was quite ignorant of these things and the strange demise of the king in as much as in order to inaugurate, Shree Gobinda and Brindaban Chandra together, Shree Brindaban Chandra was taken from Nara Singh to the palace by Gambhir, but Shree Brindban Chandra was handed to Sanakhongsangba Jubaraj. Being displeased Nara Singh did not frequent the palace And Shreemati Kumididni, Maharani, too, in fear did not inform Nara Singh

of the death of Gambhir Singh

Momentous account. When Labanya Chandra Maharaja obtained Brindaban Chandra from the hand of a saint of the west he made it a rule that this idol would be handed down to, and worshipped by, all the future Jubarajas of Manipur with all necessary homage and sacrificial rights due to it. Hence the anger of Nara Singh.

Other achievements. During the reign of Shreejut Gambhir Singh Maharaja in order to fix the boundary of Manipur by way of a demarcation line he placed a rock with a foot print (of Karta) on it at Thegomei (Kohima).

When Maharaja Gambhir Singh was in Cachar there broke out a war between the British and the Jayantias (Khasis). In this war Gambhir Singh greatly helped the British by arresting the Jayantia king and handing the latter over to the British. Gambhir thus won the title of "Khahi Ngamka" (the conqueror of the Khasis).

An important account. The beginning of the settlement of the British soldiers in

Manipur :—During the reign of Gambhir Singh a sort of sepoy's known as Saparmaina Panabee settled at Langthban along with a Lieutenant

The Brahmins who migrated in Manipur during the regime of Shreejot Gambhir Singh Maharaja.

Origin	Place from which they came	
1. Shrothi.	Shantipur	
2. Kaisop.	Agartalla, Tipperah.	
Idol worshipped	Title of the family and designation and surname.	Reason
Gopaljee.	Brajamayum	Assuming the title of Nabadwip
Salgram	Anoubam. (New family)	New comer.

The attitude of Nara Singh towards Gambhir Singh :—

Nara Singh hearing of the death of his brother, Maharaja Gambhir Singh performed all the ceremonial rites due to the rank of the deceased with pomp and pride. As for the place of burning the body of Gambhir Singh as the

latter (Gambhir Singh) grew cold towards the location of the ceremation of Shreejut Khaba Bhadra Singh (by refusing the burning place of honour) Nara Singh too by way of a retaliative measure burnt the body of Gambhir Singh on the bank of the trench at Langhabal with a small monumental building (erected over the grave in commemoration of) for the deceased keeping thereby in segregation the grave of Gambhir Singh from that of the royal reserve

T*he fate of Sana Khongsangba* Nara Singh appointed the boy Chandra Kirti, son of the late Gambhir Singh King and during the minority of Chandra Kirti, Nara Singh took upon himself the task of ruling the country. Sanakhongsangba, as has already been mentioned above, was the Jubaraja but it was only a seeming for his orders failed to exercise a healthy influence upon, and received no obedience from the subjects. In great shame he left Manipur and laid down his life in foreign strands (Tekhao).

T*he rebellion of Jogendra* During the administration of Nara Singh Wangkheirakpa Jogendra Singh, the

eldest son of Marjeet Maharaja directed an invasion from outside (Mayang). Hearing the approach of Jogendra Singh upto Tangkhohi Haokhu' (a Naga village) Nara Singh sent on deputation his brother Debendra Wangkheirakpa at the head of some soldiers and had the army of Jogendra Singh routed in different directions

T*he rebellion of three* After the rebellion headed by Jogendra Singh was quelled the three sons of Chourajeet Maharaja (1) Tribhuban (2) Ram Singh and (3) Tilando started another rebellion. On hearing that Nara Singh sent his brother, Debendra on deputation again at the head of some soldiers but this time he failed to suppress the rising tide of the three persons and therefore he came and narrated the course and operation of the battle to Nara Singh. While matters stood in this way by a surprise attack in the quiet moments of the night there ensued a hard battle in the compound of the palace. At this Nara Singh's indigation reached a white heat and he killed Ram Singh and Tilando, Tribhuban

remained lurking in the bushes of the Megching Hills. He could not be induced to come out of the bushes which were impervious to or proof against bullets. He was untraceable. The message was communicated to Nara Singh Jubaraja for further action.

A *decoying system of arrest.* Nara Singh replied that the only feasible arrangement that could be made out in this connection was to convince him of the fact that his life would be spared and that no harm would be done to him. When the decoying system failed a Brahmin entered the bushes with a "Salgram" (a Hindu Idol) and on the strength of this salgram and on promise of safe conduct and security of life Tribhuban came out from the in-extricable bushes. Nara Singh ordered his men to bring him before him so that he might put some questions to him but on hearing these things Debendra gave hints to some men and had Tribhuban killed on the way. At this Nara Singh was greatly irritated but in the light of "What is done cannot be undone" Nara Singh rest satisfied

with the situation.

A punitive expedition against Tarangkhomba and his party :— On receipt of the news that Tarangkhomba, the eldest son of Labanya Chandra (2) Khetri Taba (3) Asangbam Taba and (4) Thangjam Taba wore royal robe of honour embroidered with gold Nara Singh with intent to arrest them encompassed or encircled their house. Tarangkhomba along with some servants and property fled and took shelter in Kamukhun. At last understanding that Tarangkhomba was taking shelter in Kamukhun village not far of Leital Menjor, Khubong Menjor together with 500 strong proceeded towards Thoubal and after a pitched battle was fought Tarangkhomba was shot in two parts, the arm and the thigh and he was arrested alive. As he was a king maker according to the rules of the state he was exiled.

The rebellion of Tarangkhomba and his party :— In Mayang (1) Tarangkhomba (2) Khetri Taba (3) Asangbam Taba (4) Thangjam Taba were united and their discontent against Nara Singh sprang up with fresh luxuriance and

therefore they renewed the battle against Nara Singh. Hearing the course of the event Nara Singh by way of a punitive expedition sent his brother Debendra Singh at the head of a large army. The pride and defiance of the four chiefs dissolved in the depths of Debendra's valour. Debendra killed all the chiefs and returned with all his army in great triumph.

Attempt and plot on the life of Nara Singh a strange incident:—When Nara Singh Jubaraja took up the reigns of government during the minority of Chandra Kirti Kumudini Maharani as a green-eyed monster looked askance at Nara Singh for she wrongly thought that Nara Singh might nip or crush the boy Chandra Kirti in the bud. She wanted her son Chandra Kirti to jump the life to come. She therefore aimed at annihilating Nara Singh by vile means. Accordingly she called her men Thangal, Paosong and Nepra etc. and addressed them in this way. "You know Chandra Kirti is the son of your Lord (Gambhir Singh); he being a child is a foil to Nara

Singh. So cherish his young heart with the hope of brighter days, yet in store by any feasible arrangement that can be made out under your support and influence. Thangal and Paosong accepted the proposal in readiness and arranged everything to meet the situation which was forthcoming

The time was evening, and scene the "Mandob" or Hall of Shree Gobinda. The vesperal songs rent the whole air and everything was clothed in a hollowed aspect. The scene of every religious individual swooned in the sweetness of the vesperal songs celebrated before Shree Gobinda. In the meantime Mantrimayum Nabin Singh as instigated by Paosong and Thangal appeared at the scene in the grab of a worshipper with a sharp sword concealed in his long cloak. Nara Singh fell prostrate several times before Shree Gobinda in the true mode of worship. When he was in the act of rising to his feet finishing his last bow. Nabin Singh with his war-cry "Nahade Nabinde" (I am Nabin the brave, the champion) synchronously dropped down the sword from behind

(unawares) aiming at the neck of NaraSingh Nara Singh as he was highly proficient by long practice in the use of weapons raised on his head one of his hands automatically in hot haste on hearing the war-cry in order to ward off the blow. But the hand serving the purpose of a shield got wounded. On Nabin's attempt at second blow a sepoy general with the big end of the barrel of the gun at once killed him. In gratification of the sepoy's sincere service Nara Singh made him manjer with the respect-commanding title of Akoijamba Ningthon Khamba (a loyal companion of the king) with scope of freedom. Learning the contrary issues of her plot Kumudini Maharani fled to foreign countries taking with her the innocent boy Chandra Kirti, Thangal and Paosong. Afraid lest his brother's son Chandra Kirti through prick of conscience might run away Nara Singh sent men to take special care for the boy but much to his regret the boy was missing and untraceable.

Nara Singh (Leiren Nonglen Khomba)

Nara Singh:—After the flight of Ohandra Kirti the country fell kingless. There being no other

rightful claimant for the throne than the missing Chandra Kirti, Nara Singh stepped on the throne. His solemn coronation was performed in a perfect manner in 1853 A D. And his brother Debendra Singh was declared Jubara a and general of the country combined Bhuban Singh was appointed Wangkheirakpa. In this way under the administration of these brothers the country enjoyed peace and prosperity.

He began to shine again with the colours and freshness of the dawn of morning but unfortunately as will be seen hereafter, it was a dawn whose purple clouds already announced the thunder of a sultry day. One gift alone was denied to him by nature—a long life.

Rebellion of Chiba and Melei Khomba ;— A tumult was created by the rising of Chiba. The two brothers Chiba and Melie Khomba organised a troop and started a rebellion. Nara Singh directed a punitive expedition under the leadership of Debendra against these brothers. At Maklang Chiba was killed. Melei Khomba was arrested and brought to the royal palace

At Mongsangei he was forced in a bag of thick and coarse cloth and drowned into the water.

The last days of Nara Singh Maharaja :—

After seven years of peaceful reign on undisputed authority, he fell a victim to severe illness from which he never recovered. In the event of this illness he called to his brother Debendra Singh and his son Bhubon Singh and made Debendra Singh king. At this Bhubon Singh Wangkheirakpa was greatly enraged and consequently created a sensation of tumult. He mustered all his sons and at the royal gate a fierce battle ensued between Debendra and Bhubon Singh. In the battle Bhubon Singh could not cope with the indomitable valour of Debendra and he therefore fled to foreign countries together with his sons. When the political storm was over Debendra Singh (afterwards Manik Nanglem Khomba) ascended the throne in 1849 A.D.

The character of Maharajah Nara Singh :—

Nara Singh was a star in the Political firmament of Manipur. He had a due regard for truth and for the rank of all. He was always on his Guard against any

expression that might tend to hurt the feelings of any individual. He knew the guiding principles of a king. A king will best govern his country who reigns over his people as a father does over his children. Royalty consists not in vain pomp, but in great virtues. The people are fashioned according to the example of their king; and edicts are of less power than the model which his life exhibits. These qualities he had to his fill. Envy was unknown to him. He did not know how to play loose and fast upon the succession question. He did everything in the nature of things in an unselfish manner. He pacified all succession political troubles and factions by a dove-tail system by appointing Jubaraja and Senapati too. That is to say, he offered the throne to such persons who had a legitimate claim to it and without coveting their position at last he filled up the vacancy as is vividly shown by his quest of the boy, Chandra Kirti in the succession question and by his justly filling the vacancy when the latter was untraceable. This lands a peculiar and rare

charm to his moral fibre

Some may stain the character of Nara Singh for his offering the throne in his last days to his brother Debendra Singh overlooking his own son Bhubon Singh. But it may be said in his support that he did the same from the promptings of his magnanimity and unselfishness (looking for others first). Viewed in this light he may be ranked among the greatest of Meitie kings

Other achievements :— His reign throws an interesting light in the domain of the fine arts of Manipur specially music.

Nipa Palla (Choral singing by male), the manner of wearing turban, girdle (an ample fold of dress worn crosswise round the loin), the classification of old and new songs—all these things were highly cultivated.

The so-called “Dhop palla” sung during the Jhulon festival has its germs and elements im-
pregnated in the strict observance of the festival by Nara Singh and Gambhir Singh both of whom acquired a profound study of the art from Goswami Krishna Das Tagore Time has set its seal of approval to the far-reaching

consequences of the efforts of this managimous and enlightened Maharajah as is vividly proved by the celebration of the "Dhop palla" during the Jhulon and Durga Pujah festival, now under the kind patronage of His Highness the Maharajah Churachand Singh K.C.S.I., C.B.E. The Meities will not be too grateful for the same to Nara Singh and Gambhir Singh.

The royal female (of Choral song) were divided into two groups: Nara Singh's party is known as "Jahla-keli" (female song fraught with the sprinkling of water between the idols Krishna and Radha) and that of Karta is known as "Raseswori palla".

Important changes:—The name of Nara Singh will rest along with the present "Sakabda" in as much as it was he who substituted Sakabda for "Chandrabda" (era) During the reign of Nara Singh "Manipur Bejoy Panchalee" was recopied.

The Brahmins who settled in Manipur during the reign of Maharajah Nara Singh :—

Origin (stock).	Place from which they come.	Idol worshipped.	Title of Reason. the family.
1. Banerjee.	Boro Nagor.	Kali Thakur	For being Mayum. Kulin (tribe)
2. Goswami.	Santipur.	Modan Gopal.	Gosai Goswami. Mayum.
3. Acharya.	Kharadoho. Aseam.	Narsingh.	Warilibam Story (story tellers). telling.

The sons of Maharajah Nara Singh ;—

1. Bhupon Singh, 2. Sana Khunjaoba,
3. Angou Senapati, 4. Puskor Sana, 5. Sana Haujou,
- 6 Wangol Sana, 7. Haobam Sana Tomba
8. Sana Borachawba, 9. Chingakham Sanatomba,
10. Laisram Sana, 11. Kaifa Sana, 12. Ningtek Sana,
13. Kaifa's brother, 14. Megzing,
15. Sana Theba, 16. Faibok Yaima, 17. Faibok Tomba,
18. Sangoi Sana, 19 Panganton 20 Sana Wiba,
21. Haobam Marak Taba, 22. Haobam Marak Taba's brother & 23. Kama Singh.

The sons of Bhupon Singh :—

1. Sanahal, 2. Sana Yaima (Tumber Singh &
3. Sana Tomba Singh

The sons of the honourable Tumber Singh, the grandsons of Sj. Maharajah Nara Singh :—

1. Dumbor Singh, 2 Sana Yaima Din bhar Singh
- 3, Sana Tomba, 4. Sana Macha Debendra Singh
- 5, Sir Churachand Singh, K.C.S.I, C.B.E.

The rebellion of Shubon Singh Wangkheirakpa.

Debendra Snigh
(Manik Nonglen
Khomba):—

Maharajah Debendra Singh ascended the throne in 1849 A D. During the reign of this

Maharajah Bhubon Singh Wangkheirakpa hatched a rebellion from Mayang against Debendra in 1850 A. D. under such terms and presumption that the boy Chandra Kirti would be king and he would be the Jubarajah. They kept the troops in readiness at Langthaban in Manipur. At that time all the soldiers intended for Debendra Singh espoused the cause of the boy Chandra Kirti.

K*homdol Sana fighting* This sorely provoked
with Bhubon Singh the anger of Khom-
don Sana Jubarajah,

son of Debendra and a retaliative attack was directed against Chandra Kirti's party. At last due to the shortage of the soldiers of Debendra Singh his cause was gradually losing ground and the tide of success went over to the side of Ningthempisak (Chandra Kirti) and Debendra Singh fled to Dacca. Then he was known as "Dacca Taba" (A settler in Dacca)

The son of Maharajah Debendra Singh :—

1. Khomdol Sana, 2. Singhajit, 3. Thangkokpa
4. Amu Sana, 5. Thanjam Sana, 6. Chongtham Sana & 7. Chongtham Sana's brother.

The character of Maharajah Debendra Singh:--

His social achievements. Maharajah Debendra Singh was a good warrior as is proved by his successful campaigns in the reign of Nara Singh. He was moreover, a willing worker in the field of the welfare of the state. He did much for the economic development of the country by doing away with two exacting and grinding laws of the state. One in its effects specialised the industry or profession of an individual. A man could deal in only one article and no other. The other necessitated the people of a neighbour to present themselves before and attended to the noble who had a seat of honour on the palki on public festivities, without any gratification fees. The control of trade by state regulation and the compulsion of dancing attendance upon the nobles in costly dress which many poor people could not afford, seriously handicapped the poor individuals who formed the majority of the subjects of the country. Krishnando Mohodhar Singh, a favourite and important personage of Debendra Maharajah sug-

gested a remedial measure and moved the king accordingly. The Maharajah then wiped off the economic drawback by declaring that a man could deal in several articles (variety is the spice of trade specially for the poor people). This shows that Maharajah Debendra Singh knew the rudimentary laws of economics. Though the specialisation of profession is applicable in other circumstances in the circumstances of the then Manipur it was inapplicable.

Chandra Kirti (Naojinglen Nongdron Khomba)

I*nternal dissension.* Chandra Kirti ascended the throne in 1850 A.D. One day the mother of Bhubon

Singh and other ladies of the palace sarcastically said to Bhubon and Angon Senapati "We see no reason why you should rest satisfied with your making Chandra Kirti, a remote relative to you king of the country after driving away your own uncle. It is hard to see what we get from that. You are the cause of our discontent and as such please go away from our sight." This struck them with shame and they organised a party and one night there started a battle but as the soldiers of Chandra Kirti

ontnnumbered those of Bhubon and Angou, Bhubon and Angou Senapati were compelled to flee to Mayang.

T*ampha Sana sister of Chandra Kirti takings the charge of Jubarajah* After the flight of Bhubon Singh Tampha Sana, sister of Chandrakirti held the charge of Jubarajah Moirangkhom Bazar was the dowry of this Tampha Sana

Murder of Nahakpa and Langoljamba as kingmakers :—A few days afterwards Nahakpa and Langoljamba were murdered in the Bazar on suspicion of king-makers.

The rebellion of Sana Leimaram Taba, brother of Nara Singh, and Khunjao Sana :—Some time later Maharajah Nara Singh's brother, Sana Laimaram Taba and Khunjao Sana gathered a large army in Mayang and directed a rebellion against Chandra Kirti in Manipur. In the fierce battle that followed Laimaram Taba and Khunjao Sana lost their lives. Sajou Sana, son of Kaifa Sana was appointed Senapati, Soon Surchandra was born and he was appointed Jubaraja. After four years on the death of

Sajou Sana, Setu Sana son of Chourjit Maharajah was appointed Senapati.

The rebellion of Naol Singh son of Sjt. Madhuchandra :— Naol Singh son of Sjt. Madhuchandra, by mustering a large army in Mayang set up a rebellion against Manipur. He kept the army in readiness on the bank of the Waisel. In this battle Maharajah Chandra Kirti distinguished himself by his personal engagement. Tolhcau Sana, the son of Naol Singh died of a wound received from a bullet. Naol Singh was arrested alive and he was brought to the palace on the back of Chandra Kirti's elephant. Naol Singh fell soon into the favour of Chandra Kirti and lived with the latter in the palace. After about five years Naol Singh breathed his last.

An Expedition against Akam Nagas :—

Maharajah Chandra Kirti personally led an expedition against the Akam Nagas on their not paying tribute levied by Chandrakirti. He realised the annual tribute off-hand unopposed. (The Akam Nagas were too fearful to oppose him and consequently they surrendered

automatically by paying the annual tribute).

Chandra Kirti's help to the British :—There broke out a war between the British and the Jangi Palton (Regiment, Battalion) at Chittagong near the sea-shore. When matters grew worse and serious with the British Chandra Kirti sent a large Meithei force in aid of the British under the leadership of Namairakpa Major and Mutua Major. The Meithei army stationed or posted at the foot of Bhubon hills where they captured all the Jangi mutineers (rebels) and handed them all to the British. In return the British thanked Chandra Kirti heartily.

The imprisonment of Sana Chahi-Ahum :—As directed by the British Maharajah Chandra Kirti traced out and arrested Sana Chahi-Ahum, son of Maharajah Chourjit on the ground that he was a ringleader of the Jangis against the British. The British sent Sana Chahi Ahum to Kalapani (penal settlement) where he was interned,

The rebellion of brothers:—Maipak Sana and Kaifa Sana :—Sometime later Maipak Sana, a descendent of Mantri Punsiba and Kaifa Sana

mentioned above led a rebellion against Manipur from Mayang. Then Macarajah Chandra Kirti sent Setu Senapati to suppress the rebellion at the head of a large army. Setu Sana turned up at Khurailakpan. The troops of Maipak Sana not knowing the out-post of the Manipuri troops stationed at Lokpaching hills by a round about way. In the meantime the British troops who were in search of the Jangi rebels happened to meet the troops of Setu Senapati at night and a heavy firing followed between them at Khurailakpan. In the battle the soldiers of the British got wounded from the bullet but none of them died. In the morning the two parties came to understand that they belonged to the same side and thus they were reconciled. On the other hand, the same night the Mayang party of Maipak who stationed at Lokpaching hills advanced up to the royal palace and there ensued a fierce battle. The party of Maipak Sana was conducted by some Jangis. One of the Jangis was killed before Kangla. Many Meitheis too lost their lives. Maipak Sana was arrested and handed over to Chandra Kirti by

Thangal Manjor. Chandra Kirti maintained him in the palace. The party of Setu Senapati came back from Khurailakpam without meeting Maipa Sana.

The rebellion of Kanhai Sana :—

Soon after the rebellion of Maipak Sana was over Kanhai Sana, son of Maharaja Marjit started another rebellion with a large force. The Manipuri troops opposed them on the precipice of Laimaton hill and the troops of Kanhai Sana were dispersed. Kanhai Sana fled again to Mayang

The rebellion of Gokul Singh, son of
Maharaja Debendra :—

Gokul Singh, son of Maharaja Debendra Singh started a rebellion from Mayang and opposed the Manipuri troops at Kurailakpan. The Meitei troops won the battle and captured the Mayang troops. Thokchao subidar and others of Manipuri guards at the outpost of Oinamlong Thana were found to have hatched treason by joining the party of Gokul Singh in the hope of making Gokul Singh king of Manipur. Then they were taken captives and murdered and

the dead bodies were dried and kept hanging for 7 days in the heat of the sun from Thangjam Lok to Khurailakpan.

The rebellion of Kanhai Sana for a second time.

Kanhai Sana again rebelled from Mayang. The Meiteis blockaded them at Jiri where they were utterly defeated. Kanhai Sana fled.

An expedition against the Nagas of Khunumei:—

News soon reached the ear of Mr. Johnstone Colonel. then a resident in Manipur to the effect that Mr. Debent was killed in the battle of khunumei. Sir J. Johnstone asked Chandrakirti to become an ally in this connection. Chanrakirti agreed and sent a Meitei group under some leading men of the time—Sj. Surchandra Jubaraja, Koireng captain and the master of war-elephants—to Khunumei. The Meiteis stormed the fortress of Khunumei and Nagas were made captives and those who were poisonous in their motive were murdered to a man. After placing the Naga catives in charge of the Br sepoy Surchandra came back with the Meitei troops.

The British by way of genuine gratification

gave the Meiteis a reward of Rs. 5000- together with a beautiful medal.

Zilla Durbar :-

Then the British Government being highly pleased opened a negotiation with Chandrakirti, to the effect that the Br. Government wanted to have an interview with this Maharajah. According to a judicious arrangement the Governor arrived at Zila in a steamer and the Maharajah too reached the place of appointment. The Durbar was held in a steamer and as such Chandrakirti put on a boat-race dress. At the sight of his beautiful attire the British highly admired Chandrakirti. The Governor in great glee awarded a medal and a handsome elephant to Chandrakirti. Moreover, the respect commanding title of K. C. S. I was conferred upon him. Then a photo of the king was taken. The Governor returned to Calcutta and Chandrakirti to Manipur.

Pacification of a tumult arising between the Nagas and Nakhe village in Burma

Then a news of the murder of the villager of Nekhe in Burma by the Nagas of

Manipur arrived Thereupon Balaram Manjor and Colonel Johnstone with a large Meitei force proceeded upto Moxe Thana in Burma. Then they went to the scene of slaughter and after effecting a reconciliatory measure between the two races Balaram Major and Colonel Johnstone returned to Manipur.

Annexation of certain territories of Burma :—

Then by a combined attack of Mr. Trance, Mr. Hin, Mr. Markin and Balaram Manjor many territories of Burma and some other neighbouring hill tracts of Manipur were suppressed and annexed. Then the king ruled Manipur long and well by worshipping Shree Gobinda. Afterwards the Maharajah died. Chandrakirti's character :—

Chandrakirti was an energetic ruler. He was shrewd politician. He could play loose and fast upon many matters. He was a worker of the spirit of the time. He did many things for the people but sometimes his good qualities were outweighed by his unpardonable treatment towards those who took shelter under him as is vividly shown in connection with his handing

over to the British some fugitive Jangis whom he gave shelter on promise of security of life but whom he sent away when the British demanded them. His attitude towards men of merit was rather hard to see. One Sana Champrando who was a skilful artisan was killed by pushing him in a bag of coarse cloth and then by throwing him into the Imphal river mainly through the poisonous instigation of Kumudini Maharani on the ground that Champrando could manufacture bullets and make guns. But the achievement of his title K. C. S. I. is a sufficient proof of his ability.

His social achievements :-

Sir Chandrakirti did much to ameliorate the moral condition of the people. Severe punishments were inflicted upon persons of high crime and thieving. There were punishments of severe types of gambling.

Generally the term of imprisonment in his times was considerably long.

Other achievements :-

In the reign of Chandrakirti a building was erected for him. This is known as "Sylhet

Rajbari". Another was erected at Silchar Manugram. This is known as "Manugram Sangai".

The villagers of Kwatha were captives of Sj .Kyamba Maharajah brought from Tippera. They supplied monthly betul-nuts to the kings of Manipur upto the time of Chandrakirti.

Chandrakirti sent Chungkham Nungla Hajari to search for smooth stone in order to carve out statues of Hanuman and Garura to be placed side by side on the varanda of the temple of Shree Gobinda. In the course of his search for the same Nungla Hajari (a stone mason) worked out and inaugurated the existing Ingourok Mahadeba. Then Hanuman and Garura were carved out and inaugurated. Still now the two statues are decorating the temple of Shree Gobinda.

The high-sounding bells of Shree Gobinda were also made during the reign of Chandra-kirti. (Now the bells are broken).

To facilitate the means of communication with Burma Mr. Prempton and Mr. Ajuten constructed the Tongjeimaril Road from Bishnupur round Terakheithel. Chandrakirti held

the contract for constructing the road in a round-about way. The road was shortened by Leimapokpa Keirungba. From Niktaibat (hithek (modern residence of P. A.) to Foiijing be constructed the road.

The office of a Political Agent like Englishman—

During the reign of Chandrakirti frequent unrest created by the scramble of hostile Ningthemchas (Rajkumars) for the throne and the tumult caused by the Burmese on the other, necessitated the keeping of a Political Agent like Englishman in Manipur. The names of the important personages of this office :—

1. Declen 2. Dadur 3. Macclot 4. Johnston
5. Grimwood.

The sons of Maharajah Chandrakirti.

1. Surchandra Singh 2. Kulachandra Singh
3. Faijaoba Singh 4. Tikendrajit Singh (Koirang)
5. Thambou Sana Singh 6. Paka Sana Singh
7. Gambhir Singh 8. Gopal Sana Singh
9. Angou Sana Singh 10. Zila Ngamba Singh

THE BRAMHINS WHO SETTLED IN MANIPUR DURING THE REIGN OF CHANDRAKIRTI.

Origin (Stock)	Place from which they come	Idol worshipped	Family title	Reason
1. Pechowri	Radhakunda	Giriraj		Coming from Radhakunda
2. Subha	Raibirin	Ramjee	Adhikari	New Corner
			Anowba	

An important note :—

The chain of the memory of the Manipuris for Mr. Johnstone will never be severed as long as Johnstone High English School stands in Manipur. He established this school for the introduction of western ideas (English education) and the diffusion of learning in consultation with Chandrakirti Maharajah.

Chinglen Lanthaba (Surchandra Singh)

Surchandra ascended the throne of Manipur in 1886 A. D. After four years Kulachandra became the Jubaraj and Tikendrajit Senapati (Commander-in-chief).

The rebellion of Bora Chaoba, the son of Narasingh :—

Bora Chaoba, the son of Narasingh started a rebellion, Paona Majar, the leader of the troops and Chongtham Miya carried on the war vigorously at Nambol at the foot of the present "Heibi" tree. Being unable to continue the war they fled to Mayang. They renewed the rebellion and advanced upto Lalambung Makhong. Then the scene was shifted to Langol hills while Bora Chaoba was captured. He was

sent to Hajaribag where he was imprisoned, Major Paona and others were imprisoned in Manipur Jail.

Another rebellion of Wangkheirakpa Kangjeibung Mapan Taba, the grandson of Maharajah Labanyachandra :—

Wangkheirakpa Kangjeibung, Mapan Taba, grandson of Maharajah Labanyachandra rebelled and advanced upto Kangla where he got hold of the Dragon statue. But he was shot down.

Internal dissension for the throne :—

Soon the eight brothers were at daggers drawn with each other and divided themselves into two groups, 4 on each side. Tikendrajit started a rebellion at night. Surchandra could not withstand the attack of Tikendrajit and took refuge for some time in the Bangalow (the then residence of P. A.). Then when things were arranged that he would go to Cachar Kulachandra requested him to resume the throne and give up his intention of going to Cachar, But Surchandra did not comply with his request and after giving the Royal sword to Kulchandra, he said "Let kingship

be thy lot." Then he left Manipur. He proceeded upto Calcutta and submitted an application to the Governor for help. In the mean time Kulchandra became king in 1890 A. D. In the early part of Kulachandra's reign in response to the application of Surchandra filed to the Governor a commission of 4 Englishmen was sent on deputation to Manipur to inquire into the particulars of the transaction and to report the issue of the investigation to the British Government and also to intimate the orders of the Governor to the Meiteis.

The names of the Englishmen :—

1. Mr Quinton, the chief commissioner of Assam, 2. Colohel Seal, Commandant of Rifle No. 42, 3. Leflent Simpson of Rifle No. 46, 4. Kosin, Asst. Secretary. Grimwood, the then Political Agent in Manipur together with 4 English high officers mentioned above met at the Bangalow (residence of P. A) Then things, were arranged for holding a Durbar with Maharajah (Kulchandra). Tikendrajit appeared at the scene of the Durbar but he went away before the Durbar began. Kulachandra could

not come up to the terms of the British demanding Tikendrajit. British officers asked Kulachandra to allow them to enjoy the celebration of the famous Manipuri "Rasa". Accordingly the Maharajah entertained the British with the Rasa at night. As soon as the Rasa was over the British officers attempted at arresting Tikendrajit. They advanced in quiet moments of the situation to the bank of the Imphal river running just before Tikendra's house. There ensued a fighting in which some soldiers both of the British and Meitei lost their lives.

At dawn in the eastern gate of the palace there followed an active and terrible fighting. Being unable to withstand the vehement attack of the Meiteis the British took shelter in the Bungalow. The Bungalow too was bombarded. In this way when Tikendrajit could not be arrested the British signalled by raising the flag the cessation of the fight (withdrawal of the Meitei attack).

The Manipur war :—

After the truce was declared a Dubar was

held among the Meiteis and the British officers in the "Bajay Hall". Failing to come up to satisfactory terms the five high officers of the British were murdered. Learning this strange incident the India Govt. sent their big troops in three directions North, South and West and there ensued a tremendous war

The operation of the war : -

The British troops of the north did not come up to Imphal. The troops of the west under the able leadership of Major Maxwell stormed the palace of Imphal.

The main interest of the Manipur war is confined specially to the troops of the south. Rajkumar Yaiskul Lakpa formed the defensive work of the south at Thoubal Athokpam with a well-organised troop. A British troop also came up by the Imphal by way of advanced spies in order to learn the weak points of the Meiteis. By a surprise attack they fell upon the Meitei troop of Yaiskul Lakpa at Thoubal Athokpam. Many died in both sides. In this pitched battle an Englishman fell down from his horse. Yaiskul Lakpa in order to put

an end to the life of this Englishman advanced to him but the Englishman shot him down with a pistol. Thus ended the life of Yaiskul Lakpa.

Khongjom.

The highest war-fever ran rampant at Khongjom. Paona Major, Chongtham Miya, Yengkhoiba Major and others organised a large army at Khongjom with intent to meet with any danger. The British, too, passing through Langathen met the Meitei troops at Khongjom. It was at this memorable Khongjom that the war was in its hardest. In short, it was a life-and-death struggle which would decide the fate of the contending parties—the Meiteis and the British. There followed a down-right heavy firing. The vast expanse of the sky was enveloped with innumerable weapons. Sounds of war-cry rent the whole air. Ping went the bullets. Spears after spears, javelins after javelins were thrown and the sky was covered with smoke produced by the guns and bombs. The balance of success was true for some time mainly through the vigorous activities and resistance of Paona Major against the towering strength of the mighty

foe, the worldpower. But the strenuous exertions of this personage were dissolved in the heroic exploits of the British. Paona fell down dead without turning his back to the enemy. Thus ended the Manipur war. The British now entered the royal palace and sounded full notes for a new era in the history of Manipur.

In this way the British scored a fair measure of success in the domain of eastern politics and their interest in it attained maturity by annexing Manipur to the British empire.

The fate of Tikendrajit, Thanzal and
Kulachandra.

Soon after the war Jubaraj Tikendrajit and Thanzal General were arrested and hanged. Kulachandra Maharajah was sent along with some nobles to Hajaribag where he was interned.

THE TRIAL OF THE SENAPATI. THE JUDGMENT.

**Copied from the Amrit Bazar Patrika
Dated 4-7-1891 and 10-6-1891.**

**Sd St. Johnfarcount Michell,
St. Col. President**

**Sd R. K. Ridgway Major.
Comdt. 44th G. R.**

**Sd. A W. Davis, Dy. Commissioner.
Naga Hills Kohima.**

They all went to the road side and had a talk with the Senapati and after a few minutes entered into the palace when the chief did not agree with the terms viz. to leave Manipur by night leaving all arms aside. Arguments went on for two hours. In the meantime an infuriated mob assembled on all sides. The Senapati ordered his buglers "Order, order," but this had no effect. The mob were labouring under an impression that in their holy books it is said that there will be a great war at Manipur which will not be won till the blood of five of the enemies was given to certain gods and their hands buried in a certain ditch. When the Senapati ordered them to disperse, some of them said—we are giving our lives only for you and you are the cause of this war, if you still obstruct. we will kill you too. The chief then wanted to return. The Senapati pointed to him the danger on the way and repeatedly told the party not to leave the palace.

THE TRIAL OF THE SENAPATI.

The judgment.

First court of the charge.

The accused pleads not guilty to the first court of the charge against him Viz. Waging war against the queen Empress and though he admits having fired upon the British troops sent to arrest him. He states that he did so more in self-defence than with any idea of waging war against the queen.

That it was the intention of the Manipur Darbar to resist forcibly any order of the Government of India, which was not in accordance with their wishes We have the evidence of Bamon Charan Mukherjee, clerk to the Regent who states that preparation for resistance and attack was made a fortnight before the arrival of the Chief Commissioner.

The Manipuri Darbar had heard that the late Maharaj of Manipur who had abdicated, was on the road from Kohima to Manipur in company with the Chief Commissioner of Assam. And the accused does not deny that warlike preparations were made to resist. The accused

was the president of the Council, when it was decided to send 1000 Manipur soldiers Mao Thana to oppose the advance. It was only on receipt of the telegraphic message stating that the ex-Maharajah was not in company with the Chief Commissioner, that this most daring attempt to oppose the Government of India's orders was abandoned

We may take the events which occurred from the 21st March when the Chief Commissioner arrived at Sengmai up to the night of the 23rd March as related by the witnesses and the accused himself, as they agree except on the points :—

- (1) Of an interview with Mr. Grimwood.
- (2) The illness of the accused.
- (3) His presence at the Regent's Darbar.

The plea of sudden illness through which the accused was unable to attend any Darbar on the 22nd and 23rd cannot be accepted as valid. Everything tends to prove that it was a mere pretext to avoid a meeting with the Chief Commissioner. The accused was able to meet the Chief Commissioner some miles out

of Manipur, he was able to attend the Darbar at noon on the same day on the horse-back and it was only after he had been kept waiting out side the Residency gate some little time that he returned to his house.

His suspicions had been aroused that he was about to be arrested. We have it in evidence that the rumour had been current for some time in Manipur that the accused's arrest was contemplated by the Chief Commissioner and there is further evidence to show that the accused was well enough to attend the Regent's Darbar on the afternoon of the 23rd and to take an active part in the attack of the 24th.

Babu Bama Charan Mukherji, the second witness states that the accused was present at the Regent's Darbar on the afternoon of the 23rd March, held in the palace to discuss the orders of the Government. The accused states he was not there. The second witness Bama Charan has given his evidence throughout in a most straightforward manner and appears to have a good memory of smallest details which happened and his evidence on this

point may be accepted. We come then to the morning of the 24th March.

It is proved by all the witnesses for the prosecution and admitted by the accused and witnesses for the defence that firing between the Manipuris and British soldiers commenced early on the morning of the 24th and continued uninterruptedly all day, until about 8 O'Clock in the evening. The accused pleads in extenuation that his troops were fired on first.

Of his witnesses, only the third, assert that the British fired first and this witness was by his own admission not in a position to make any such assertion, as he states he was awakened by the sound of firing and immediately ran away whereas on the other hand, we have the evidence of Captain Butcher, Lieutenant Chatterton and Havilder Dhuphurd that the British troops did not open fire first and both officers testify to the strict orders given to officers commanding parties that our troops were not to fire unless fired on first. We are, therefore, justified in assuming that the first fire came from the Manipur side. The accused is

proved by the evidence to have taken on active part in the attack on the Residency on the 24th. He was found at an early hour in the morning superintending the men at the north-west corner of the ramparts, from which the Manipuris were firing on his own house then occupied by the British troops. He was found in the evening Superintending the laying of a gun and the construction of an embrasure at the west wall and he admits being in command and ordering the "cease fire" on the evening of the 24th. It is impossible to doubt that he could, had he so wished have stopped the firing of his troops on the British at any moment and hoisted a flag of truce. Finally he demanded the surrender of the British troops on the night of the 24th

The court are unanimous in the opinion that the first count of the charge has been proved against the accused.

Trial of the Guard.

This morning nine men who composed the guard placed over Mr. Quinton's party by the Jubaraj and to whom he gave orders to take

care of the Sahibs, put on their trial before Maxwell, Chief political officer.

Angom Ningthou's statement.

The first witness for the prosecution was Angom Ningthou, whose evidence was much the same as that given in the previous trial. He acknowledged receiving orders from the Jubaraj to see the Sahibs safely out and stated that he gave directions to the prisoners to watch over the officers and see that no harm befell them. After this witness went away to eat his food and did not hear of the murder of the Sahibs until his return.

Jatra Singh's statement.

The next witness was Jatra Singh, who gave similar evidence and acknowledged that Angom Ningthou had handed over the captured Europeans to his care. But not withstanding this, witness stated that when the Jubaraj and Thangal had a conversation in the Tope Guard regarding the killing of the officers, his witness seeing that something dreadful was to happen went away to his quarters to sleep and did not hear of the murder of the officers

until next morning. This witness also stated that he never saw Mr Grimwood's body near the steps nor did he know how he was killed.

Usurba's defence.

The statement in defence of Usurba's the first prisoner, contained no new facts except a confession that he knew that the Sahibs were to be killed at the time when he made them over to executioners. He acknowledged doing this by order of Thangal General although on a previous occasion he had refused to obey the order given by Thangal general to kill the Sahibs. Witness gave us a reason for obeying this second order that he knew that Thangal was closed with the Jubaraj and hence that the order met with the Jubaraj's approval.

Second court

It is admitted that the British officers met the accused at a Darbar inside the fort on the night of the 24th March. The accused states that after expression of regret on both sides as to the event which had occurred during the day he required British troops to lay down their arms and on this condition alone would

he give them a safe conduct to Kohima and he mentioned that the Manipuri troops were so infuriated as to be quite beyond this control.

On the refusal of the Chief Commissioner to accede to the terms, the Darbar broke up, the accused left the Darbar and proceeded in the direction of the Tope guard, leaving the British officers to make their way out as best they could in the opposed direction. This action, so contrary to the strict Oriental idea of etiquette and quite opposite to the usual custom in Manipur was very expression of anger against and contempt for the British representatives

The crowd already excited and encouraged no doubt by this attitude of their prince at once broke out into demonstrations of violence against the officers, striking at them with spears, the butts of their rifles and sword and shouting out "kill, kill,". One of the officers, was wounded and it was only owing to the exertions of Angom Ningthou that the officers were enabled to gain the shelter at the Darbar Hall steps. One of them Mr. Grimwood was

stabbed just as he entered the gate of the compound, fell under the steps and died there. The accused hearing the uproar, returned and dove off the crowd apparently without any great difficulty.

This affords strong proof of the great control he possessed over the men. He then ordered Angou Minto to guard the officers safely and went away, making no further efforts for their safety, although he had seen the dead body of Mr. Grimwood for whom he claims to have entertained strong personal friendship, lying under the steps and must have known in what imminent danger the lives of the remainder were.

He made no effort to see the officers safe to their camp. He says, he did not do this owing to the heavy firing going on at the time but we have conclusive evidence until Midnight and the Darbar has been proved to have been held at about nine O' Clock. The accused himself further on states that when he was met on the wall by Jatra Singh and Usurba there was no firing going on, and these witnesses sought him on the wall shortly after he left

the Darbar room. This excuse may therefore be dismissed as untrue

It is evident that the accused could not have been doubtful of his power to conduct the officers outside the gates, had he wished to do so, for his own men had just given him an excellent proof of their obedience and of the influence he possessed over them. Even had the above excuses been valid, there was nothing to prevent his taking the officers either to the Tope guard or to the citadel, where they would have been in perfect safety

He merely told Angom Ningthou to guard them and went off to the ramparts to look after the troops, proving thereby that if he had not then desired to kill the officers, he intended to keep them prisoners for some ends of his own. While the accused was on the ramparts Jatra Singh and Usava reported to him that the general Thangal had given orders for the officers to be killed but they wanted his, the accused's orders. There is some discrepancy in the evidence of the witnesses. Jatra Singh says, the accused merely said "Let

us go and consult the old man but Usava states, the accused said that the General Thangal's orders were not to be obeyed and that he would come and see about it.

Jatra Singh was present in the Top-Guard when the accused taxed the general Thangal with having ordered the death of the officers, but he did not wait for the end of the conversation. Usava, the companion of Jatra Singh went to the Darbar Hall and he saw the accused pass on his way to have an interview with the general Tangal in the Top-Guard and about half an hour afterwards. Yengkhoiba came from there and said that the general (Thangal) ordered the British officers to be made over to the public executioner. He then described how the officers were taken out of the Darbar Hall and murdered to the dragon gate but he did not see the execution. He then went to the Top-Guard. In this examination in chief he said the accused was not there then in cross examination he says he was there,

Hedha Choubi, the witness, confirms the evidence of Usava but adds that when he returned

to the Top-Guard, after making the officers over to the executioners, he found the accused there in conversation with Thangal and according to this witness the murder of the executioners was present at the executions

The evidence of Yengkhoiba, 14th witness corroborates that of Usava and Hedha Choubi and given some further important particulars. He says, for the instance that Thangal said to him, "The Jubraj before this told you to give the Sahibs over to the executioners, why have you not done it?"

And further on, he states that when Thangal said this the accused was in the same room apparently asleep. He says, he did not see the accused in the Top-Guard, when he went back there, after having made the officers over to the executioners. He denies having called executioner.

The executioner, 10th witness, gives details of the execution. He says he was there by order of the Jubraj and that Yengkhoiba called him. The inference of his evidence is that the Satwal or Chief executioner was not present at the executions.

The Satwal or Chief executioner, 12th witness, corroborates the above, and is certain that Yengkhoiba called him. He also states that he was not present at the execution. The evidence of all the Manipuri witnesses bears the impress of truth upto certain point, that is not one of them, since the executioners, will admit having seen the executions and their evidence as to what happened immediately on the executions is most unreliable.

The statement of Jatra Singh is that he went away just as the accused and Thangal were arguing as to the murder of the officers, on whose behalf he made such exertions and in whose fate he had expressed so much interest, is altogether incredible and such a statement can only be attributed to a disinclination to repeat the conversation he heard. The statement of the accused that when he came back to the Top-Guard to confer with Thangal about the latter having ordered the officers to be killed and that after the general had given his reasons for giving such an order that he, the accused lay down and went to sleep, is almost beyond the bounds

of credence. If he really did so, such an action would have implied nothing but consent to the murder of the officers and that he had yielded to the arguments of Thangal. That the accused acquiesce in them and that the 2nd order for the executioner to be sent for, was the result of this acquiescence, the court has no doubt indeed any other belief is impossible. The accused according to his own account returned to the Top-Guard wrathful with a minister for having ordered British officers to be put to death. The accused argues the case with him and rebukes him yet although the minister is next to himself the greatest power in the state and had shown himself more than anxious to murder the officers, the accused after a little argument lay down.

Such callousness, if he was really interested in the fate of the officers is incomprehensible. He sent none of his followers to warn the sentries on no account to give the officers up to any one without his orders nor did he have them removed to citadel (only distant some 50 yds) where their safety would have

been assured. If Usuava refused in the first instance to carry out the orders of Thangal without the distinct orders of the accused and heard him express his disapproval and countermand the order and when he knew that when the second order came the accused was close at hand in the Top Guard. Usurva must have been given to understand that the result of the conference to which he had seen the accused go, was a confirmation of the original order that the officers should be put to death.

Moreover, the fact that in the first instance Thaagal nearly ordered the sentries to kill the officers and that in the second instance an order was made for their delivery to the public executioner which gave the dead a sort of legal aspect and made of it a public ceremonial order by the ruling power would warrant the assumption that in the second instance a far higher power than the general Thangal had ordered the execution. The fact that neither Thangal nor any of the parties directly concerned in the executions were in any way punished

by the accused confirms this.

The court is unanimous in its opinion that the second court of the charge has been clearly proved against the accused. With the third court there is no evidence to prove that the accused was present when the murders were committed, the court finds the accused not guilty of this court.

On the face of the so-called 'sel-makhai' (the old coin of Manipur) which had been passing current or in use from the time of Pakhanha down to the time of Kulachandra there was the writing of " " (Shree) in Nagri character and some other words in Meithei character and the name of the reigning king. But the coin is now not in vogue.

The "short", "long" and pronunciation of the archaic Manipuri words underwent a great change in the reign of Kulachandra Maharajah.

SOME EXAMPLES OF THE MODIFIED FORMS MAY BE CITED BY WAY OF PHILOLOGICAL INTEREST.

Leikai poirakpa	=	koirakpa.
(visit to one's neighbourhood)	=	walking,
Lam poiba	=	lamboiba.
(to wander from place to place)	=	monk.

The man who shaking off wandering from place to place settled down in a house was called "poireita".

A table of the manner of the use, worth, counting etc. of the "sel-makhai" mentioned above is given below :—

Two selmakhais make up 1 one sel.

4..... 50 sels.

8..... 100 sels.

100 x 10 1000 sels.

1000 x 5 Re. 1 one.

The sons of His Highness the Maharaja Kulachandra Singh.

(i) Hajursana Singh, (ii) Tikendradhwaja Singh,
(iii) Hamchandra Singh, (iv) Khalendrajit Singh.

BEJOY PANCHAI I

Chapter XV

The reign of Huen Langjan phaba (Churachand Singh)

The coronation of Maharaja Sir Churachand Singh took place in the year 1813 of the Saka era. Some of the battles that occurred during the earlier part of his reign are mentioned below:—

The hill-tribes of the north-east frontier having revolted, a Manipuri regiment headed by Chura Singh Jamadar and others was sent together with British troops. The battle was won in 1904 A. D. and the Nagas were captured

Some months later the village of Map rose in rebellion. Laisram Chura Singh Jamadar and Mr. Dunlop Assistant Manipur state superintendent went, with a body of Manipuri soldiers, against the rebels. The Nagas gave way and their chief was arrested on the 23rd March, 1904. At length they were pacified and one of them was made head of the village

Some time between 1905 and 1910 Colonel

Shakespear, Maibam Tamra Singh and some state Military Police went and burnt a Khoirao village.(Lakhumai).

In 1910 Colonel Woods (D. C., Kohima) and Mr. Cosgrave went and burnt Aishan Kuki village in the unadministered area, north of Sorma,

In 1911 Colonel Shakespear, with Mr. Higgins burnt Sorma Phuntret, which had raided a Manipur Langkhul village.

Manipur state Military Police under Laisram Chura Singh accompanied these two expeditions,

His Highness the Maharaja sent labour corps to accompany the Abor Expedition in 1911, the Makware expedition in 1911 and the Mishmi Mission in 1912,

After some days the Abors and the Mishmies rose against the British. On receipt of this news the Maharaja volunteered to assist the British Government in defending Sadia and Pasighat and thus sent on the 19th April, 1915 some Manipuri soldiers in two batches, the first batch being under Chura Singh Subadar and Maibya Jamadar and the second under Ningthaujamba Subadar and Mootwa Pitambara Jamadar

and Huidromba Jamadar.

Then followed the Grèat War and the news that the British had been dragged into the war, flashed upon the whole British Empire. On this occasion too, His Highness the Maharaja, with his usual alacrity to help the British in distress, came forward to contribute his might to the cause of the empire. He recalled his soldiers at the Abor hills and sent them with new recruits in three groups in 1916. The first group including Captain Blakie, Chura Singh Subadar, Tombi Singh Subadar, Chingtha Jamadar and Thingomba (hura Jamadar proceeded towards Mesopotamia; the second with N ingthaujamba Subadar, Sarokaiba Angou Jamadar, Jatra Singh Jamadar and Tolen Jamadar was stationed at Landsdwon depot and the third that was a labour corps led by Colonel Cole Commandant, Captain Jeffery, Lieutenant Dorward, Gogon Chandra Dey Subadar, Khwai-rakpam Nabakishore Singh Jamadar and Akham Magho Singh second clerk was sent to France. His Highness personally went to Landsdown twice to see how the Manipuris were faring

there.

In the mean time the Kukies of the hills surrounding Manipur united together and declared dependence in 1917 through the instigation of Chingkham Sanachaoba Singh, who was, afterwards, found to be their ring-leader. The Kuki tribes which joined in the rebellion were the majority of the Thados—mostly Shikhlon, Haokip and Dongel clans. This is known as the Kuki operations, the official name of which was 'The Kuki Punitive Measures'.

The Maharaja being displeased with the conduct of the Kukies, managed to threaten them by sending an army. For this purpose camps were set up at the following places—Thongjao, Maklang, Irengbam Bishnupur, Ningthoukhong, Moirang, Sugnu, Heirok and Tennaeban, where fighting was occasioned for a short while. These camps served the purpose of protecting the villagers from the disaster.

His Highness the Maharaja, accompanied by the Ngamei Nagas and Manipuri troops personally went to Dampi touching at Moirang, Sagang and Oksongbung on the way. The Manipuris

encamped at Dampi and after a terrible fighting with the rebels for some days, they carried the day and thus the agitators were subdued. On another occasion before this His Highness had the kindness to visit a hill-station in the south-west, which has been, thenceforth, called Churachandpur after him in honour of his august visit. Then he returned to the royal palace.

Chingakham Sanachaoba Singh the ring-leader (a Manipuri) having fled to Burma, Mr. Higgins, the then President of the Manipur state Durbar, happening to be in Tamu with a 4th Assam Rifle Column which had been operating in East Manipur, obtained information that Sanachaoba was in hiding near Yanggoipokpi, and went with some Burma Military Police to try to capture him. But Sanachaoba escaped and was shortly after captured by the Sawbwa of Samjok (Thaungdut) and brought back therefrom to the royal palace. Sanachaoba and other captives, though exempted from the sentence of death, were given condign punishment.

With the close of Kuki operations the Great War also ended and the troops sent to the

War came back. The British Government, being highly pleased with His Highness because of the valuable help rendered by him, conferred the title of Maharaja, which was made hereditary. The title C. B. E. was conferred upon His Highness in recognition of the services rendered by him on the occasion of the Great War. In common with all the Imperial Forces who served in the various operations of the Great War. His Highness the Maharaja received the British General Service medal and the Victory medal.

About four years later the inhabitants of Hylakandi rose up against the British, His Highness sent some Manipuri soldiers twice to help the British in putting down the insurgents. The first batch under the leadership of Thingom Chura Singh Jamadar advanced upto Badarpur and the second batch headed by Tombi Singh Subadar and Angou Jamadar stayed at Silchar. The British having succeeded in quelling the agitation and restoring peace in the country, the Manipuris came back and reported the matters to His Highness.

Thus he ruled over the country smoothly for some years. Then one day he was determined to go on pilgrimage. With this view His Highness started from Imphal with Her Highness Dhanmanjuri Devi in December, 1910.

After having visited Nabadwip, Benares, Prayag, Brindaban, Haridwar, Rameswar (Setubandha), Dwarka, Puri (Jaganath Kshetra), Mishmi (in Assam) and Prasuramkunda at the foot of the Abor hills, His Highness returned home and resumed, with an eye to the service of God, the administration of the state to the best of his power. Some of the western pandits honoured him with the title of Bhakta Rajarshi Kund-Seba-binoda in appreciation of his whole-hearted devotion to God. A temple was erected and dedicated to Gopalji at Fadha-kunda and it was known as Gopalji Kunja.

Some of the Cachar planters, having heard of the skilfulness of the Manipuris in polo, asked the Maharaja to a friendly match. The Maharaja accepted their invitation requesting him kindly to go to Silchar and join the match. Consequently His Highness set off, in 1914

for Silchar with a polo team consisting of President Higgins, Mr. Blakie (Private Secretary), Mr. Burke (Executive Engineer` and some Manipuri polo-players headed by Sangajam Bhubon Singh. The European gentlemen and ladies at Silchar warmly received His Highness. Then the match was played and on-lookers numbering about one thousand encouraged the game. The opponents were beaten by many goals. The spectators began to form a ring around His Highness clapping their hand with cries of joy and praised the Manipuris much in appreciation of their dexterity in the game. Then he made his way homewards amidst the applause of his attendants. After his arrival he began to manage the administrative affairs devoting himself to the service of Sree Govinda and the well-being of his subjects.

During his reign the Manipuris residing at Gauhati, Cachar, Nabadwip, Brindabon and Burma regarded him as the final authority on matters concerning the problem of untouchability. He also tried his utmost to foster the cause of education

In 1932 His Highness performed a Maharaasa ceremony at Radhakunda. Observing this the sages of Rajputna praised him much as engaging himself more than anybody in following the religious teachings of Madhabacharyya. In 1933, Haraoba (a short of Manipuri national dance) has also been performed in conformity with the methods, shown by Pandit Moirang Thabal in the same manner as it had been celebrated by way of worshipping PAKHANGBA during the reign of his forefathers.

His Highness set foot on Hiyang Hiren (a boat to be used only by the Maharaja) in the year 1933 for the first time. The name of the boat is Loibi Khamson Ngamba, Sorensangbam Kebol Singh being its maker.

In the time of PAKHANGBA a conference was convened to solve the problem of family distinction. The sitting lasted for seven days. and thereat all the tribes of the surrounding hills were summoned and they were shown to which lineage each of them was to belong. Similarly during the reign of Huen Langjan Phaba Churachand Singh, the All-Hindu Manipuri

conference was held on the 30th May 1934 for the uplift of the Manipuri nation. On the 21st October of the same year all the tribes of the surrounding hills of Manipur came down to the royal palace and there they enjoyed merriment through sportive dance and the like. This is known as 'Mera Hao-chongba'

It was first during the reign of Maharaja Chandra Kirti Singh that dome of the temple of Sree Gobinda was roofed with gold-plates. Then in the time of Maharaja Churachand Singh the temple has been constructed with double cupolas which are also overlayed with gold. At Nabadwip a temple with single dome plated with gold, has, recently, been erected by Her Highness Dhanamanjuri; and it is known as Sonar Mandira'.

As a sportsman, His Highness Sir Churachand Singh, while in the Mayo College, Ajmer, was the recipient of many medals. And it will be no exaggeration to say that His Highness ranks as one of the best players in almost all sorts of games both indoor and outdoor. His Highness spent large sums of money for sporting

purposes and encouraged young enthusiasts interested in this line. In short, His Highness is a patron of sports and games, to which the fact that even in his advanced age His Highness would himself occasionally turn up to the field and show the tactics and mode of playing, and made also every facility for the young enthusiasts to make themselves experts bears eloquent testimony. Like the ancient Hindu kings His Highness is very fond of hunting and games.

As a good administrator, His Highness loves his people irrespective of caste and creed, and tries his level best for the betterment of their condition. In His Highness is found a Meitei King by the Meiteis, a hill chief by the hill-tribes and Mahomedan king by the Mahomedans. He also possesses administrative abilities of a high standard. He has been reigning for more than forty years during which period the sun of prosperity has shone upon Manipur. Considering from all points of view the British Government thought it fit to honour him with some title befitting his capacities and it was in

1933 that His Highness was awarded the highly-esteemed honour of K. C. S. I.

In the reign of His Highness the Maharaja Sir Churachand Singh, K. C. S. I., C. B. E. the following noteworthy events took place :—

(1) Lallup was abolished shortly after His Highness accession, by which his subjects were relieved of an irksome and unpopular system of forced labour.

(2) Pothang was abolished in 1913, by which another form of unpopular forced labour came to an end.

(3) The Johnstone School was converted into a High School and other High Schools were opened, while Primary Schools were introduced throughout the valley and the hills

(4) A system of land survey and record of rights was introduced shortly after His Highness' accession, thereby safeguarding their land tenure to his subjects.

(5) A regular system of land revenue payment in cash was substituted for the old system of payment in kind or by service.

(6) The Manipur State Durbar was established

in 1907, as an advisory council to His Highness, and as a Supreme Court of Judicature.

(7) The old system of minais—a modified form of slavery—was abolished

(8) All State officials remunerated with cash salaries in place of their former remuneration in kind or service or land. Many other reforms were introduced into the administration of the State.

(9) His Highness offered two bells of considerable size to Sree Govindajee in place of the former two offered by Maharaja Chandra Kirti Singh.

The sons of His Highness the Maharaja Sir Churachand Singh, K. C. S. I., C. B. E. are as follows :—

(1) Budhachandra Singh (2) Priyabrata Singh (3) Lokendra Singh (4) Joy Singh (5) Khedar Sana Singh and (6) Maipak Sana Singh.

Maharaja Sir Churachand Singh, died in 1941 A. D. at the sacred place of Nabadwip while enjoying a holy life. His eldest son Bodhchandra Singh succeeded him in the year 1941.

RULERS OF MANIPUR—

1	Nagaraj Ananta	....	....
2	Chitrabahu Gandharba	....	....
3.	Sabrubahan	....	....
4.	Kalapchandra	....	....
5.	Shakti	....	....
6.	Kalakapot	....	....
7.	Kakambi	....	....
8.	Tulakangkha	....	....
9.	Sukangshu	....	....
10	Anusanta	..	....
11.	Pratilamba	....	....
12	Kulamabhoy	....	....
13.	Towthangkhu (Pongjti)	....	....
14.	Towthangkhu (Pongjati)	...	....
15	Towhangpe ( „ )	....	....
16	Bishasting (Pureiromba Engowpanba Snahal)		
	After the age of Kali	....
17.	Shitjitang, Jubista Mahendraswar, Nong- mada Lairen Pakhangba	3135	Saha era—
18.	Koiba Tomba (Khemchandra)	194	A.D.
19.	Taothingmang (Jalagatya singh)	274	„
20.	Khuningamba (Khagadwip singh)	369	„

21. Pengsiba (Punyakhema singh)	A D.	409
22. Kaokhongba (Akadara singh)	„	468
23. Naophangba (Nilamani singh)	„	570
24. Naokhomba (Dabanta singh)	„	619
25. Shameirangba (Shyamachandra singh)		639
26. Kabichandra singh (Konhouba)	....	700
27. Naothingkhong (Nilamani singh)	....	750
28. Kongtekcha (Khelananda singh)	....	849
29. Keiremba (Kritivara singh)	....	880
30. Yaraba (Databidi pati singh)	....	949
31. Ayangba (Akhanda Partap singh)	....	968
32. Ninthowcheng (Kasthamani singh)	....	987
33. Chengloipan Lanthaba (Chandra singh)		1007
34. Yanglaw Keiphaba (Byaghrajit singh)		1027
35. Irengba (Indribara singh)	....	1107
36. Loyamba (Labanga singh)	....	1127
37. Loitongba (Lokanatha singh)	....	1154
38. Hema towiwanthaba (Indribara singh)		1179
39. Thawanthaba (Surachandra singh)	....	1199
40. Chingthang Lanthaba (Chandrakanta singh)	.... ....	1211
41. Puranthaba (Sanchayabita singh)	....	1226
42. Khumbomba (Maladhara singh)	....	1236
43. Moranba (Sthirabhadra singh)	....	1256

44. Thangbi Lanthaba (Ananta singh)	1268
45. Kongyamba (Keerttichandra singh) ..	1258
46. Telheiba (Shudarshan singh) ...	1300
47. Tabungba (Trandata singh)	1309
48. Punsiba (Chandrasahsa singh) ...	1354
49. Ningthowkhomba (Shreepati singh) ...	1389
50. Kyamba (Chintamani singh)	1404
51. Koirenba (Muktabali singh) ..	1508
52. Langai Ngamba (Gaichandra singh) ...	1523
53. Nongyinfaba	1524
54. Kabomba .	1525
55. Atongjamba (Medhab singh)	1543
56. Chalamba (Ripoo singh)	1546
57. Mungyamba (Devarudha singh)	1564
58. Khagemba (Khogindra singh) ...	1598
59. Khunjaoba (Shetambuja singh) ..	1652
60. Paikhomba (Paifindra singh)	1666
61. Charairongba (Pitambara singh) ...	1697
62. Garabaniwaj Gopal singh	1709
63. Khagilanthaba (Chitshai)	1718
64. Minthoinganba (Bharatsha)	1752
65. Moramba (Gowrashym)	1753
66. Chingthangkhomba (Naojinglen Nong- drenkhomba Karta Bhagyachandra, Joy singh	1759

67. Loirenkhomba (Labanyachandra singh) 1798
 68. Talenkhomba (Budhachandra singh) 1801
 69. Bhalok Wairong Pamheiba (Chourajit) 1803
 70. Nongpok Wairong Pamheiba Marjit) 1813
 71. Joy singh (2)'.
 72. Jadu singh
 73. Radhab singh
 74. Bhadra singh (Khaba)
 75. Chinglen Nongdrenkhomba' (Gambhira
 singh) 1825
 76. Leiren Nonglen Khomba (Nara singh) 1853
 77. Manik Nonglenkhomba (Devendra
 singh) 1849
 78. Naojinglen Nongdrenkhomba (Chan-
 drakirti) 1850
 79. Ching'len Lanthaba (Surachandra singh) 1886
 80. Kulachandra singh 1890
 81. Huen Langjan Faba (Churachand singh) 1913
 82. Bodhchandra singh 1941
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HAIL TO SHREE GOBINDAJEEU

or

(Shree Gobindajeeu Khurumba)

Taibangpanbagi mapu Shree Gobindagi khuyada
Meitei ningthow eina hangachchei.
Leip pumnamak loinana Gobindigi seabu tow-
jabase Gobindagini penbiyu haina khurumjei.

MUTUA JHULON SINGH
Brahmapur Chungkham Leikai
Imphal
Manipur State,

The population of Manipur State is 4,45,696

Manipur is 2867 feet above sea level.

1	The Kaubru Hill	8402 feet high	
2,	The Nongmaijing	5185	„
3.	The Thanga Hill	2962	„
4.	The Laimaton	5270	„
5.	The Mao Hill	5762	„
6	The Thanging	6918	„
7,	Mongchan	5599	„
8,	Yungtong	7268	„
9.	Makuchingjao	7811	„
10	Mopithel	6739	„
11.	Molenchingjao	18075	„
12.	Gopbhol	9890	„
13.	Tenipur	9824	„
14.	Wayungbute	9295	„
15.	Laikotching	9200	„
16.	Nungpol	8123	„
17.	Binamlong (Khoujing	2174	„

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